



CHAPTER 5 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the public participation opportunities made available through the development of the Draft RMP/EIS, the formal consultation that has occurred to date, and collaborative efforts conducted in concert with the Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC). It also lists preparers of the document and the agencies and organizations that received copies of the Draft RMP/EIS for review. There have been and will continue to be many ways for the public to participate in the planning process for public lands under the jurisdiction of the Dillon Field Office.

The Dillon RMP/EIS was prepared by an interdisciplinary team of specialists from the Dillon Field Office, the Western Montana Zone, and the Montana State Office of the BLM. Beaverhead and Madison County participated in development of the document as Cooperating Agencies. Rob Van Deren served on the interdisciplinary team as the counties' representative. Economic analysis was provided through an agreement with the University of Montana as a Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit. Technical review and support were provided by both field office and state office staffs. **Table 68** lists the preparers of the document.

Members of the RMP team have consulted formally or informally with numerous agencies, groups and individuals in the RMP development process. Consultation, coordination, and public involvement occurred as a result of scoping and alternative development meetings, meetings and briefings with federal, state, Tribal, and local government representatives and informal meetings and individual contacts.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

Several steps of the planning process require that the public be provided the opportunity to participate. Major public participation events are described below and include a number of opportunities that are not required in the planning process. **Appendix B** contains a list of specific events convened as the Draft RMP/EIS was developed.

SCOPING

Scoping for the Draft RMP/EIS was initiated with publication of a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on August 9, 2001. The formal scoping period concluded on October 18, 2001, though comments received after that date continued to be considered when possible. Besides identifying issues of concern, nominations for special management areas such as ACECs and Wild and Scenic Rivers were requested during scoping.

During this time, five public meetings were held in different locations within the planning area to explain the planning process and gather input. News releases to local and regional media sources advertised the times and locations of the scoping meetings. Just under 50 members of the public signed in at these meetings.

- Lima (5)
- Dillon (18)
- Sheridan (9)
- Butte (5)
- Ennis (9)

In addition, over 1200 scoping packets providing information about the planning process and inviting comments were mailed to agencies, organizations, and individuals.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER REPORT RELEASE

BLM released the Draft Wild and Scenic River Eligibility report in March 2002, requesting public comment on initial inventory recommendations. Notifications of availability of the report were published in local and regional newspapers, including the Dillon Tribune and the Montana Standard. Beaverhead County hosted a public hearing on March 25, 2002 as a cooperating agency in the plan to gather comments on the Draft Wild and Scenic Eligibility Report released as part of the planning process. Several presentations on the Wild and Scenic River process were also given by BLM at the request of several organizations before, during and after the comment period. Comments were reviewed and the Final Eligibility Report was revised and released in July 2002. The final report was sent to all contacts on the mailing list whether or not they were involved in the process.

INFORMATION FAIR

BLM hosted an Information Fair in April 2002 to share GIS data and other information being used to compile the analysis of the management situation. This event was held at the BLM's Dillon Field Office over three days (April 9-11) between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. News releases to local and regional media sources, including radio spots, advertised this event. All resource specialists working on the Dillon RMP were available during the Information Fair to explain base information, discuss issues, answer questions, and listen to public concerns. This event provided an opportunity to the public to see BLM data first-hand, identify concerns, and suggest additional data sources. Over 60 hard copy maps were available for view and expertise was available to the public over the three days to display and overlay automated digital coverages. A total of 17 people signed in as attendees at this event.

FOCUS QUESTION WORKSHOPS

Nine workshops were hosted and facilitated in February 2003 by Beaverhead and Madison Counties and the Montana Consensus Council. BLM attended each of these sessions, but the purpose of these workshops was to hear from the public after providing earlier opportunities at the Scoping Meetings and Information Fair for the public to interact with BLM.

The purpose of the workshops was to gather information and directly involve the public in alternative development. Background information including discussions on current conditions and management protocols was released in January 2003 to the entire RMP mailing list in a document called the “RMP Digest”. This document was produced to assist the public in understanding the issues and provide focused comment on relevant matters. Copies of the focus questions to be reviewed at the workshops were also provided. News releases to local and regional media sources, including radio spots, advertised this event to inform people not already on the mailing list. A “What’s On Your Mind” radio interview session by KDBM radio in Dillon was conducted in January 2003 prior to these workshops to explain the planning process and general local community interest in these workshops. Public attendance at the workshops is summarized below.

- Butte (9)
- Dillon (15)
- Ennis (9)
- Jackson (2)
- Lima (10)
- Bozeman (28)
- Twin Bridges (0)
- Missoula (4)
- Harrison (14)

Workshop responses were summarized in a report prepared by the Counties and submitted to BLM in March 2003. The Western Montana RAC reviewed this report in April 2003 and provided formal recommendations for BLM to include as the planning team developed a range of management alternatives. All of the workshop responses were considered by the team as the development of alternatives continued through the spring and summer of 2003.

INTERVIEWS

Over 45 discussions regarding the potential social effects of the RMP were held with area and regional residents in the summer and fall of 2003. The participants included county commissioners, RAC members and others chosen to represent different geographic areas within the counties and different interests such as livestock permittees, motorized and nonmotorized recreationists, hunters, those inter-

ested in wood products, outfitters, etc. The discussions lasted from 1 to 3 hours and covered how the participants felt the proposed activities would affect them personally, and their attitudes toward the study area and the proposed activities. The results of these discussions are included in the social impacts sections.

OTHER OUTREACH EFFORTS

A website was established for the RMP as well as a 1-800 number hotline for call-in comments and update information. Throughout the development of the Draft RMP/EIS, all individuals and organizations on the mailing list received copies of the *Dillon RMP Update* newsletter. This newsletter summarized where the BLM is in the process and how the public can become and stay involved in development of the plan. BLM also released an informational report in November 2002 documenting the relevance and importance evaluations of the 63 ACEC nominations received as a result of scoping. This information was provided prior to release of the Draft RMP/EIS (where it is normally found) given the keen interest expressed in ACECs throughout this planning process.

FORMAL CONSULTATION

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONSULTATION

Consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service is required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 prior to initiation of any project by BLM that may affect any federally listed or endangered species or its habitat. This RMP/EIS is considered to be a major project and this document defines potential impacts to threatened and endangered species as a result of management actions proposed in the RMP. Contacts were made with the FWS during scoping, and early drafts of alternative provisions provided to staff for discussion. An initial list of federally listed threatened or endangered plant, animal, or fish species or habitats present in the Dillon Field Office planning area was requested on October 15, 2001, with an update received on January 28, 2004. An informal meeting was held with FWS biologists in October 2003 to discuss alternatives and consultation procedures. A draft biological assessment that evaluates the impacts of the preferred alternative (proposed action) on federal threatened and endangered species has been submitted concurrently with public release of this document to the USFWS. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS will include the final biological assessment and resulting USFWS biological opinion.

Consultation with the USFWS will continue throughout the RMP process and implementation of the plan.

See Chapter 2, Special Status Species, for a detailed discussion of consultation procedures under Section 7 of the ESA, as they relate to this planning effort.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE CONSULTATION

The BLM cultural resource management program operates in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800 which provides specific procedures for consultation between the BLM and the SHPO. The SHPO has been consulted during the development of the Draft RMP/EIS concerning cultural resources that may be affected. A coordination meeting was with SHPO staff in February 2002 in Helena, Montana. A copy of the Draft RMP/EIS has been sent to the SHPO for review and comment.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act as well as in recognition of the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government, letters were sent to four (4) tribal governments and officials to inform them of the Dillon RMP/EIS. The letters also requested their input on issues and concerns to be considered during the planning process and initiated efforts to identify areas of traditional cultural concern. Meetings were held with representatives of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in Fort Hall, Idaho on February 8, 2002 and with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Pablo, Montana on February 26, 2002. A copy of the Draft RMP/EIS has been sent to both tribal entities for review and comment.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

A variety of public involvement strategies have been implemented throughout this planning process to improve communication and develop understanding of the issues and the process in development of the RMP/EIS. As mentioned in Chapter 1, three issue-based working groups were formed by the Western Montana RAC to engage in collaborative problem-solving and consensus based decision-making to assist the BLM with recommendations on three issue areas: ACECs, Travel Management, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. Each of these groups were professionally facilitated by a representative from the Montana Consensus Council.

These working groups were convened under the provisions of the RAC charter as subgroups. These subgroups provided an avenue for a group of diverse interests to collaborate on recommendations that the full RAC could then review and forward to BLM as BLM's official advisory group estab-

lished under FLPMA. Membership in the subgroups reflected the three interest categories established by the RAC charter: Category 1 (Permit Holders, Commercial Operators on Public Lands), Category 2 (Environmental or Conservation Organizations, Dispersed Recreation, Archaeological/Historic Interests) and Category 3 (Elected Officials, State Employees, Tribal Officials, Public-At-Large).

Membership in each subgroup was determined by the RAC in coordination with BLM and the Montana Consensus Council. RAC members were requested to make contacts and provide names of individuals willing to work in a collaborative fashion and provide representation of their constituencies. Adjustments to the subgroups sometimes occurred after initial organization when subgroup members could not attend due to schedule conflicts or lack of time. Each subgroup established their ground rules of operation and decision-making processes at organizational meetings. Subgroup findings were presented to the official Western Montana RAC following subgroup work and recommendations. The official RAC then took those recommendations under advisement and made formal advisory recommendations to BLM for use in the plan.

ACEC SUBGROUP

The RAC subgroup on ACECs consisted of six members, two representing each of the three interest categories established by the RAC charter. Kathy van Hook served as the facilitator for the group, and Mark Goeden acted as the BLM representative to answer questions and provide technical information. The subgroup included the following representatives:

- Sue Marxer (Category 1)
- Jim Hagenbarth (Category 1)
- Ben Deeble (Category 2)
- Jack Kirkley (Category 2)
- Mel Montgomery (Category 3)
- Ted Coffman (Category 3)

This group met between March and May 2002 and presented their findings to the Western Montana RAC at the June 10, 2002 meeting in Butte. The Western Montana RAC made final recommendations to the BLM at the same June 10, 2002 meeting.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT SUBGROUP

The RAC subgroup on ACECs consisted of nine members, three representing each of the three interest categories established by the RAC charter. Gerald Mueller served as the facilitator for the group, and Rick Waldrup acted as the BLM representative to answer questions and provide technical

information. The subgroup included the following representatives:

- Doug Abelin (Category 1)
- Gene Loder (Category 1)
- Ellis Thompson (Category 1)
- Dick Young (Category 2)
- Dan Pence (Category 2)
- Tom Hough (Category 2—Alternate for Dan Pence)
- Scott McKee (Category 2)
- Robert Thomas (Category 2—Alternate for Scott McKee)
- Mark Anderson (Category 3)
- Bill Kolar (Category 3)
- Ted Harrison (Category 3)

This subgroup met between March and September 2002, and presented their findings to the Western Montana RAC at the September 5, 2002 meeting in Dillon. The Western Montana RAC made final recommendations to the BLM at the same September 5, 2002 meeting.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SUBGROUP

The RAC subgroup on ACECs consisted of nine members, three representing each of the three interest categories established by the RAC charter. Kathy van Hook served as the facilitator for the group, and Lynn Anderson acted as the BLM representative to answer questions and provide technical information. The subgroup included the following representatives:

- Rob McCulloch (Category 1)
- Ray Marxer (Category 1)
- Tom Rice (Category 1)
- Jennifer Dwyer (Category 2)
- Richard Gotshalk (Category 2)
- Bill Cain (Category 2)
- Robin Cunningham (Category 3)
- Senator Bill Tash (Category 3)
- Russ Kipp (Category 3)

This subgroup met in July and August of 2002 and presented their findings to the Western Montana RAC at the September 5, 2002 meeting in Dillon. The Western Montana RAC made final recommendations to the BLM at the same September 5, 2002 meeting.

PLAN DISTRIBUTION

Since initial scoping, BLM has maintained a mailing list of individuals, businesses, special interest groups, and federal, state, Tribal, and local government representatives interested in development of the Dillon RMP/EIS. In an effort to reduce printing costs, notices were mailed to everyone on the RMP mailing list in November 2003 to remove those no longer interested in the process from the mailing list. People responding to this notice by December 15, 2003 were guaranteed a hard copy of the document.

Copies of the Draft RMP/EIS are also available for public inspection at the following locations:

Beaverhead County Courthouse, Commissioner's
Office, Dillon
BLM Butte Field Office
BLM Dillon Field Office
BLM Ennis Field Station
BLM Missoula Field Office
Bozeman Public Library
Dillon Public Library
Ennis Public Library
Lima Town Hall
Madison County Courthouse, Commissioner's
Office, Virginia City
Red Rocks Refuge, Lakeview
Sheridan Forest Service Office
Twin Bridges Public Library
Whitehall Public Library
Wisdom Forest Service Office
Wise River Forest Service Office

The Draft RMP/EIS is also available electronically at the Dillon RMP website, www.mt.blm.gov/dfo/rmp.

Concurrent with the distribution of the Draft RMP/EIS, a Notice of Availability was published by EPA in the Federal Register which marks the beginning of the 90-day review and comment period. BLM also published a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register announcing the availability of the Draft RMP/EIS for public review and comment.

Hard copies of the Draft RMP/EIS have been distributed to the following organizations, agencies, and individuals who requested them, or as required by regulation or policy.

Federal Government Agencies

US Army Corp of Engineers—Omaha District
US Environmental Protection Agency—Region 8,
Montana Office
USDA Agricultural Research Service, Sheep Experiment
Station, Dubois
USDA Farm Service Agency

USDA Forest Service—Beaverhead-Deerlodge
Supervisor's Office
USDA Forest Service—Dillon Ranger District
USDA Forest Service—Madison Ranger District
USDA Forest Service—Sheridan Work Center
USDA Forest Service—Wisdom Ranger District
USDA Forest Service—Wise River Ranger District
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Wildlife Services—Helena
USDI Bureau of Reclamation—Dillon
USDI Bureau of Reclamation—Billings Area Office
USDI Bureau of Reclamation—Regional Office
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Helena
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Ennis Fish Hatchery
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Red Rock Lakes
National Wildlife Refuge
USDI National Park Service, Big Hole Battlefield
USDI National Park Service, Regional Office, Denver
USDI Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
USDOT Federal Highway Administration
US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

State Government Agencies and Organizations

Honorable Judy Martz, Governor of Montana
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
Montana Department of Agriculture
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks—Bozeman
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks—Dillon
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks—Helena
Montana Department of Transportation
Montana Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation
Montana Natural Heritage Program
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
Montana State Library
Montana Water Court

Local Governments and Boards of Planning

Beaverhead County Commissioners
Beaverhead County Planning Board
Beaverhead Conservation District
Madison County Commissioners
Madison County Planning Board
Madison Valley Conservation District
Ruby Valley Conservation District
Virginia City Planning Board
Western Montana Resource Advisory Council

Tribal Governments and Committees

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Historic
Preservation Office

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Business Council
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Cultural Resource Program
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Land Use Policy Commission

Congressionals

US Representative Dennis Rehberg
US Senator Max Baucus
US Senator Conrad Burns

State Legislators

Representative Debbie Barrett, House District #34
Representative Diane Rice, House District #33
Senator Bill Tash, Senate District #17

Nongovernmental Organizations and Businesses

American Wildlands
Barretts Minerals
Basic Biological Services, LLC
Bear Trap Express
Beaverhead Outdoor Association
Bonneville Sportsman Association
Continental Divide Trail Society
Defenders of Wildlife
Diamond Hitch Outfitters
Dillon Tribune
Double Eagle Petroleum and Mining Company
Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana
Friends of the Bitterroot
Gainey Foundation
Gallatin Bow Hunters Association
Gallatin Wildlife Association
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Hollowtop Outdoor Primitive School
Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States—
Denver
Jefferson River Watershed Council
Medicine Lake Outfitters
Montana 4x4 Association
Montana Coalition for the Appropriate Management of
State Lands
Montana Consensus Council
Montana Farm Bureau Federation
Montana Public Lands Council
Montana River Action
Montana Stockgrower's Association
Montana Trapshooters
Montana Wilderness Association
Montana Wildlife Federation
Montana Woolgrowers Association
National Wildlife Federation
Northwestern Energy
Skyline Sportsmen
Southwestern Montana Stockman's Association
The Ecology Center

The Madisonian
Under Wild Skies Outfitting
Vigilante Electric
Westech Inc.
Western Watersheds Project
Wildlife Management Institute
Yellowstone Raft Company

Other Interested/Affected Individuals

The Draft RMP/EIS was also mailed to individuals and ranch entities requesting either a hard copy or CD version by December 15, 2003.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

The Draft RMP/EIS was prepared by an interdisciplinary team of specialists and included expertise from outside the Dillon Field Office. **Table 68** lists the members of the planning team and respective responsibilities.

In addition, the efforts of Scott Powers, who served as Dillon Field Manager between 1995 and 2002 and John Raby, who served as Acting Field Manager between June - September 2002, were critical in moving the land use planning process forward during their tenures as Field Manager.

Table 68
List of Preparers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Job Title</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Education</i>
Lynn Anderson	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wild and Scenic Rivers, Visual Resource Management, Recreation (October 2001-September 2003)	A.A.S. Recreation and Tourism, University of Montana-Western, B.S. Business and Technology, University of Montana-Western 4 years BLM
Steve Armiger	Hydrologist	Water and Air Resources	B.S. Biology, Towson University; M.A. Geography and Environmental Planning, Towson University 3 years BLM
Katie Baltrusch	Planning & Environmental Specialist	Technical Assistance	B.A. Environmental Studies, MSU-, Billings. 2 years BLM
Laurie Blinn	GIS Specialist	GIS Data, Analysis, and Maps	B.S. Biology, Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin 3 years BLM
John Bown	Minerals Planner and Environmental Specialist	Leasable Minerals (Oil and Gas, Oil Shale, and Geothermal)	B.S. Geology, Millsaps College; M.S. Geology, University of Missouri-Rolla 24 years BLM
Tim Bozorth	Field Manager	Supervision, RMP Oversight	B.A. University of California at Berkeley 25 Years BLM
Louise Bruce	Writer/Editor	Editing/Formatting Document Oversight (February 2002-January 2003)	B.S. Recreation Management, University of Montana 1 year BLM

Joe Casey	Forester	Forest and Woodlands Vegetation, Forest Products, Renewable Energy	B.S. Forest Management, University of Massachusetts-Amherst 24 years BLM
Jeff Daugherty	Realty Specialist	Lands and Realty, Renewable Energy	B.S. Outdoor Recreation/ Natural Resources, Colorado State University 13 years BLM
Cinthia Eichhorn	Cartographic Technician	GIS Data and Analysis (May-August 2003)	B. S. Biology, Univ. of Tennessee at Martin; Graduate work at Univ. of Central Arkansas 3 months BLM
Brad Gillespie	Fuels Specialist	Fire Ecology and Fire Management	B.S. Forestry Resources, University of Idaho; B.S. Technical Fire Management, Colorado State University 1 year BLM
Bob Gunderson	Geologist	Locatable Minerals, Mineral Materials, Leasable Minerals (Coal and Phosphate)	B.S. Mining Engineer, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology; B.S. Business Management, Univ. of South Dakota, 10 years BLM
Dale Hanson	Paleontologist	Paleontological Overview	B.S. Wildlife Management, New Mexico State University; M.S. Geology (Paleontology), University of Oregon 26 years BLM
Elizabeth Hartsoch	Cartographic Technician	GIS Data and Maps (May 2002-January 2004)	B.S. Biology, Gonzaga University; MA Geography, University of Montana 2 years BLM
Brian Hockett	Rangeland Management Specialist	Special Status Plants	B.S. Range Science, Montana State University 20 years BLM
Paul Hutchinson	Fish Biologist	Fish, Special Status Species—Fish	B.S. Fish & Wildlife Management, Montana State University 1.5 years BLM
Renee Johnson	Land Use Specialist	Project Manager, Team Leader, Technical Coordinator	B.A. Anthropology/ English University of Denver 14 years BLM
Huey Long	Soil Scientist	Soils	B.S. Agricultural Science, Soils, Montana State University; 8 years BLM

Chris Nemeth	Civil Engineering Technician	Transportation and Facilities	B.S. Forestry, University of Montana, M.S. Range Science, Montana State University 26 years BLM
James Roscoe	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, Special Status Species—Animals, Riparian Vegetation	B.S. Wildlife Management, Colorado State University; M.S. Fisheries Biology 25 years BLM
Mark Sant	Archaeologist	Cultural and Historic Resources, Paleontology, Native American Concerns	B.A. Anthropology, Idaho State University M.A. Anthropology, Southern Illinois University (Carbondale) 12 years BLM
John Simons	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangeland Vegetation, Livestock Grazing	B.S. Rangeland Management, B. S. Soil Science, Washington State University 25 years BLM
Larry Swanson	Associate Director, O'Connor, Center for the Rocky Mountain West, University of Montana, Head, Regional Economy Program	Economics	B.S. Business and Journalism, University of Nebraska M.A. Economics, University of Nebraska Ph.D. Economics, University of Nebraska
John Thompson Montana State Office	Planning and Environmental Specialist	Economics	M.S. Agricultural Economics, Purdue University B.S. Political Science and Economics, South Dakota State University 26 years BLM
Joan Trent Montana State Office	Sociologist	Social Conditions, Environmental Justice	B.A. Psychology, Miami University (Ohio) M.Env. Science, Miami University (Ohio) 25 years BLM
Rob Van Deren	Beaverhead and Madison County representative	Special expertise regarding county roads, access issues, weeds, land tenure and social/economic data.	B.S. Business Finance, Montana State University
Rick Waldrup	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Travel Management, Off-Road Vehicles, Recreation, Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas	B.A. Sociology, Mississippi State University, M. Ed. Outdoor Recreation, Southern Illinois University, 13 years BLM
Andrea Wiggins	Writer/Editor	Editing/Formatting Document Oversight (Dec 2001- Dec 2002)	3 years BLM